

## Remarks

Claims 1-23 are currently pending in this application, of which, Claims 1-16 are currently amended and Claims 17-23 are new. The claims are amended to better characterize the scope of the claimed invention.

5           **New Claim 17** is believed to be supported by the specification as filed, and therefore, not to introduce new matter. For example, support for the claim limitation of claim 17 can be found in the specification as filed at least as indicated below:

*17. The method of claim 10, wherein the at least two optical-amplifier slabs are each wedge-shaped [page 4, line 33; and page 21, lines 3-4].*

10           **New claim 18** includes limitations similar to those of claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 10, 11, and 16 and is believed to be supported by the specification as filed, and therefore, not to introduce new matter. For example, support for the claim limitations of claim 18 can be found in the specification as filed at least as indicated below:

15           *18. An amplification system, comprising:*  
            *a plurality of wedge-shaped slabs [page 4, line 33; and page 21, lines 3-4] each having a thickness dimension of less than 1 centimeter [Claim 11; page 4, line 20; and page 5, line 33] and two slab surfaces that are slightly non-perpendicular to a thickness dimension [Claim 11; page 4, lines 32-33; and page 20, lines 28-30], the plurality of wedge-shaped slabs disposed*  
20           *such that facing slab surfaces of adjacent wedge-shaped slabs are slightly non-parallel [Claim 12; page 3, lines 11-12; page 4, lines 27-29; page 5, line 2; page 11, lines 19-20; and page 20, line 32 to page 21, line 1] and the wedge-shaped slabs are separated by an intervening volume [page 4, line 32; page 5, lines 2-3, 25 and 31; page 20, line 30; and Fig. 12];*  
25           *a cooling fluid in the intervening volume between the adjacent wedge-shaped slabs [Claim 4; page 3, lines 1-2; and page 5, line 16]; and*  
            *a polarized input beam [page 20, lines 27-28; Claim 1; and Claim 10] passed through the slab surfaces of the wedge-shaped slabs near a Brewster angle [page 20, lines 11-12; page 21, lines 12-13; Claim 1; Claim 2; Claim*  
30           *7; and Claim 16].*

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New Claim 19 includes limitations similar to those of claim 5 and is believed to be supported by the specification as filed, and therefore, not to introduce new matter. For example, support for the claim limitations of claim 19 can be found in the specification as filed at least as indicated below:

- 5     19. *The amplification system of claim 18, wherein the slab surfaces include an anti-reflection surface coating* [Claim 5; page 3, lines 7-9, 26-30; and page 20, lines 10-12].

New claim 20 includes limitations similar to those of claims 2 and 16 and is believed to be supported by the specification as filed, and therefore, not to introduce new matter. For example, support for the claim limitations of claim 20 can be found in the specification as filed at least as indicated below:

- 15     20. *The amplification system of claim 18, wherein half of the slab surfaces of the wedge-shaped slabs are slanted in one direction and half of the slab surfaces of the wedge-shaped slabs are slanted in an opposite direction, the opposite slanting slab surfaces of the wedge-shaped slabs being configured to control spreading of an output beam* [Claim 2; Claim 16; page 3, lines 22-25; page 3, line 33 to page 4, line 1; and page 5, lines 10-13].

New claim 21 is believed to be supported by the specification as filed, and therefore, not to introduce new matter. For example, support for the claim limitations of claim 21 can be found in the specification as filed at least as indicated below:

21. *The amplification system of claim 18, wherein one of the slab surfaces of the wedge-shaped slabs includes a grating* [page 22, lines 28-31].

New claim 22 includes limitations similar to those of claims 8 and 14 and is believed to be supported by the specification as filed, and therefore, not to introduce new matter. For example, support for the claim limitations of claim 22 can be found in the specification as filed at least as indicated below:

22. *The amplification system of claim 18, wherein the polarized input beam has a wavelength of between 1400 nm and 1800 nm.* [Claim 8; Claim 14; page 2, line 33 to page 3, line 1; and page 20, lines 23-25]

New **claim 23** includes limitations similar to those of claims 1 and 13 and is believed to be supported by the specification as filed, and therefore, not to introduce new matter. For example, support for the claim limitations of claim 23 can be found in the specification as filed at least as indicated below:

- 5     23. *The amplification system of claim 18, wherein the thickness dimension of each wedge-shaped slab is less than 3 mm [Claim 1; and Claim 13].*

## Conclusion

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The Applicants request Examiner to enter the above amendments, and examine  
and allow all pending claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative with  
5 any questions concerning the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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